

Newsletter

September 2026

NEWS, AGRI ADVICE AND PROMOTIONS



Best of luck to the Kirby family, Mounteen, who will be representing Barryroe Co-op at the National Dairy Council & Kerrygold Quality Milk Awards.

NDC & Kerrygold quality milk awards finalist

Kirby Farm Profile: The Kirbys milk 85 pedigree Holsteins. These are big-capacity cows bred to produce, averaging close to 8,900 litres, with 681kg of milk solids per cow, while consuming less than 1.5 tonnes of meal. "Breeding beats feeding" is a philosophy that runs through Mounteen. Rather than trying to feed performance into an ordinary cow, the Kirbys have spent years breeding the cow capable of delivering it.

Longevity: These cows are expected to do something else increasingly valuable in modern dairying - last. Sixth, seventh and eighth lactation cows are nothing unusual here. The current herd averages around five lactations and the ambition is to push that towards six. Longevity matters economically, but it also says something about the way animals are managed. Cows rarely grow old in a herd unless fertility, feet, health, housing and stockmanship are all working with them.

TBC/SCC: Throughout 2025, TBC results were consistently between 3,000 and 5,000/ml, while SCC was frequently in the 50,000-60,000 range and remained at remarkably low levels throughout the year. The same pattern continued into 2026. That doesn't happen by accident. Pre-spraying and wiping, post-milking disinfection and a disciplined plant-washing routine are standard. The 16-unit BouMatic parlour is only four years old, with capacity already built in for 20 units. Hot washing is carried out daily, descaling every fifth wash, and the dairy operates chlorine-free.

AI and heat detection: CowManager collars monitor heat, health and temperature around the clock. The family's description of them is better than anything in the sales brochure: "It is like having an extra person in the yard." The system doesn't replace the stockperson's eye; it gives that eye another pair of glasses. Changes

can be picked up earlier and the timing of AI sharpened. Breeding is carried out through DIY AI, with sexed semen used across all heifers and selected cows, while Belgian Blue and Angus genetics are used on the remainder. Heifers are weighed as they develop rather than growth being guessed by eye. And the results are visible at the youngest end of the herd too. Calf mortality was below 1% in 2025, with just one mortality recorded, following none in 2024.

Feeding: First-cut silage comes early - around May 10 - targeting 75-78 DMD, with additives used to preserve quality. Four to five acres of maize are grown and beet is bought in to complement the winter diet. Grass remains central. The farm is measured around 25 times a year, six hectares were reseeded in 2025 and clover has been incorporated throughout the grazing platform. The Kirbys record around 260 days at grass.

Carbon footprint: 0.77 is the farm's footprint in kg CO₂ equivalent per kg of fat- and protein-corrected milk, reduced from 0.91 the previous year. And again, it has not come from one grand gesture. Protected urea, low-emission slurry spreading, soil testing, lime, GPS-guided nutrient application, variable-speed drives on the vacuum and milk pumps and LED lighting all contribute. Solar panels installed in 2025 have generated approximately 40,000kWh, while four batteries provide 20kW of storage capacity. But some of the nicest environmental work requires no technology at all. Some 350 hedging plants and 100 trees have been planted; bird boxes dot the farm; 4.5 acres have deliberately been left wild; biodiversity mapping has been completed; and the family is exploring a reed bed to filter water.

NEWS WATCH

MILK SUPPLY AND PRICE

August milk supply amounted to 9,204,223 litres which was an 8% decrease on August 2025, year-to-date supply is down 1.5% on the prior year. The Co-op has increased its base price by 1c/L for August milk, but reduced the payment from the stability fund from 2 c/L to 1c/L. It is also paying the weather support of 0.5 C/L which it committed to for the months of July and August.

The Co-op's base price, including the weather support and stability fund contribution, is 40.49 C/L for August milk. Barryroe is paying €7.1976 per kg of protein and €4.7984 per kg of butterfat. Our average constituents for the month are 3.59% protein 4.50% butterfat and our average price paid is 47.23 c/L, including the SCC bonus and VAT @4.5%.

Farm Plastic Collection 2026

The dates for farm plastic collection at Timoleague Grainstore are, Tuesday 6th and Wednesday 7th October, from 9am to 5pm.

Farm walk on Murray farm, Skeaf

All are welcome to visit John and Luke Murray's farm, Skeaf, Eircode P72 CK72, on Wednesday Oct 14th, 11am start.

- **John & Luke Murray**, hosts: Farm overview and performance to date, with a walkthrough of current herd performance, grassland management tactics and farm infrastructure updates.
- **Dr Aisling Claffey**: Winter feed in the winter milk herd and feed budgeting, balancing winter nutrition and getting the most from forage quality.
- **Dr Pablo DeSilva Bolona**: Dry cow preparation and recent research, covering best practice in dry cow management and selective dry cow therapy research.
- **Ellen Hurley (Carbery)**: Carbery Generational Renewal, with succession planning for the next generation.

Timoleague Catchments Programme

Join us on Wednesday, 7th October for the Open Day, as part of the Teagasc Agricultural Catchments Programme. The site is located 300 metres on the Lislevane side of Staunton Foods. Group times for visits include: 10:30am, 10:50am, 11:10am & 11:30am. See the learnings from 18 years research in an intensive grassland agricultural catchment, including:

- Nutrient Management & Soil Fertility
- Water Quality Trends - N, P and Biology
- The influence of Weather & Climate Change
- Choice & design of practical on farm measure



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• Barryroe Central 023 8840000 • Ballinspittle 021 4778221 •
• Inchybridge 023 8846207 • Kilbrittain 023 8849605 • Darrara 023 8833256 •

Barryroe Co-Op Milk Quality Top 30 Suppliers for 2025

Agricultural College, Darrara
 Denis Keohane, Ballintemple
 Declan Nyhan, Maryboro
 Timothy Crowley, Careys Cross
 Darragh Deasy, Ballymacowen
 Denis, Rosarie & Tim Mccarthy, Ardgehan
 Dermot Walsh, Currihy
 Eoin Hayes, Lispatrick
 Finbarr & Tadhg Hurley, Barleyfield
 John Flynn, Garrendruig
 Gerard & Mary Harte, Richfordstown

Gerard Moloney & Maureen Horgan, Clonbogue
 Helen & Caroline O'Donovan, Brownstown
 Humphrey A Hennessy, Skeaf
 James F. Sexton, Lislevane
 John & Carol Galvin, Ballymacaw
 John & Luke Murray, Skeaf
 John G Kirby, Mounteen
 John J. Mccarthy, Ballymacredmond
 John Joe O'Reilly, Kilgobbin
 DJ Keohane, Carhue

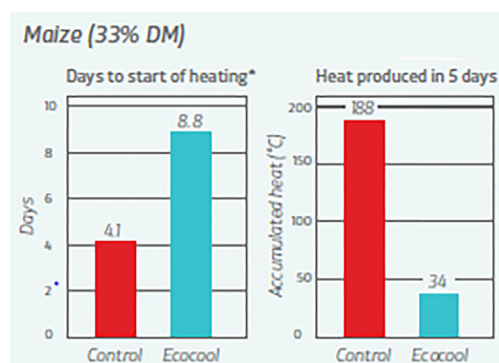
Kieran Whelton, Baureragh
 Máire Keohane, Ballintemple
 Michael & Helen White, Ardgehan
 Michael Coleman, Carrigeen
 Noel O'Donovan, Ballymacwilliam
 Patrick O'Brien, Brownstown
 Seamus Buckley, Ballymackean
 Sean Deasy, Ahafore
 Pat Burke, Ballycatten

HARVESTING MAIZE THIS AUTUMN

Forage maize is a high energy, low protein feed, which can bring some synergistic performance benefits to diets when fed with grass silage. The aim is to harvest your maize crop at 30% Dry matter and 30% starch content to attain best results in terms of yield and subsequent animal performance.

Once harvested, spoilage can be a high financial cost with maize silage. As a high energy feed, if not managed while in the pit, consequences including moulds and spoilage can develop on the shoulders and feed-face. However, this can be easily avoided with good management or where conditions around harvest are not ideal; with the use of an additive.

By using Volac maize additives to treat your crop, it will ensure your maize silage is correctly preserved and ensiled this season. In both maize trials the treated silages were significantly more stable than the untreated controls. Trough life is also extended.



IMPROVING GRASSLAND PRODUCTIVITY, FARM PROFITABILITY, SUSTAINABILITY AND COW HEALTH THROUGH SOIL IMPROVEMENT

The average Irish dairy farm utilises 7.5 tonne DM/ha grass, whereas top milk producers are achieving 16.5 tonne DM/ha grass. According to Teagasc, only 10% of analysed Irish grassland soils are at optimal fertility for pH, Phosphorus and Potassium. Devenish have developed a simple 3 step Soil Improvement Programme:

1. PHYSICAL – Aeration
2. CHEMICAL – Rebalancing the Soil's Nutrient Status
3. BIOLOGICAL – Aerobically Composting Slurry using Digest It®

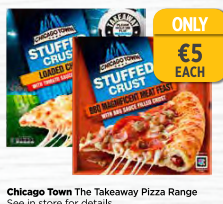
- Stimulates aerobic microbial activity.
- Converts solids into plant-available liquid nutrients.
- Reduces fertiliser costs.

- Reduces surface crusting.
- Reduces odour.
- Reduces energy required to stir and pump slurry.
- Increases the liquid to solid ratio.
- Improves fertiliser nutrient value.
- Digested slurry improves soil fertility.
- Improved fertiliser nutrient levels and grows more grass
- Easier agitation and protecting the soil life e.g. Earthworms.
- Reduces the damage slurry does on soils.
- Improves soil quality.
- 1 drum does 100,000 gallons.

For more information on this programme, contact your local Barryroe advisor.



SPECIAL OFFER



TRICK OR TREATS FOR SPOOKY SEASON



Haribo Trick or Treat Mini Baggies 160g €2 | Star Mix/Tanghastix/Share The Happy Multipack Bag 176g €2.25 | Star Mix Gift Box 380g €4 | Chamallows 140g/Sour Skeleton/Bone Shakers 160g €1.50 | Scary Movie Night Sharing Box 380g €4.75 | Maoam Mao Mix Sharebag 300g €3 | Stripes/Joystix/Mao Mix Bag 140g €1.50 | Broomsticks 350g €3.25 | Swizzels Sweet Treat Tub 600g €6 | Barratt Mini Mix Jelly/Sourz 240g/Party Mix 400g/Gummy Eyeballs 150g €3.50 | Wham Scary Chews 260g €3 | Sour Rumpkins 150g €2.25 | Favourite Selection Pouch 340g €6.50 | Bazoona Ring Pop Pouch 120g €8 | Sour Patch Kids Monster Heads 105g €1.50 | Treatsize 350g €4 | Mars Maltesers/Mars/Milkway/Twix 215g/252g/227g/260g Fun Size €6 | Cadbury Freddo & Friends Bag 191g | Treatsize Selection 225g €5.25 | Kinder Chocolate Mini Halloween Pouch 120g €4 | Skittles Funsizes 324g €4.50 | Chupa Chup Best of Fruit/Milky Lollies Bag 192g €2.75/Tongue Painter Lollipop Bag 120g €2 | Fruit-Tella Duo Stix Halloween Bag 160g €1.50 | Catch Bars Fun Size Bag 192g €3.80 See in store for details

Prices correct at the time of going to print. Offers available from 01/10/26 to 21/10/26, unless otherwise stated.
Customer quotas may apply. All savings shown are versus recommended retail price.